

GREEK ROOTS

ROOT

MEANING

EXAMPLES

acr, acro

beginning, tip, end, top, peak, summit

acronym, acrophobia

actin

ray

actinology, actinoid

agog

lead, leader

demagogue, synagogue

andr

male

androgynous, misandry

anthrop

man, mankind

anthropology, misanthrope

arch

first, ancient, chief

monarch, archaeology

arthr

joint

arthritis, arthropod

aster

star

astrology, asterisk

auto

self

automaton, autonomy, autocratic

bar

pressure

barometer, isobar

bibl

book

bibliophile, Bible

bio

life

amphibious, biology

cac(o)

harsh, bad

cacophony, cachexia

cardi

heart

cardiologist, pericardium

carp

fruit

monocarpic, carpophgous

cephal

head

encephalitis, cephalopod

chrom

color

chromatic, chromosome

chron

time

synchronize, anachronism

chthon

earth

autochthonous, chthonic

cline

dip, slope
isocline, geosyncline

cosm
order, world
cosmology, microcosm

crat
power, rule, government
democracy, autocrat

cry
frost
cryology, cryogenics

crypt
secret, hidden
cryptic, cryptogram

cycl
circle, wheel
bicycle, cyclic, cyclone

cyt
cell
cytoplasm, cytology

dactyl
finger
dactylic, pterodactyl

dem
people
democracy, demotic, epidemic

derm
skin
epidermis, hypodermic

deuter
second
Deuteronomy, Deuterium

dox
belief, teaching
orthodox, doxology

dyn
power, strength
dynamo, heterodyne, dynasty

eo
dawn
eohippis, Eocene

erg
work, power
erg, energy, energetic

ethno
race, people, cultural group
ethnology, ethnocentric

gam
marry, mate, sexual union
gamete, monogamous, bigamy

gen
kind, race, source
genesis, genealogy

geo
earth
geography, George

ger
old age
geriatrics, gerontology

glot
language, tongue
polyglot, epiglottis

gon
corner, angle
trigonometry, polygon

gram
write, writing
grammar, telegram, epigram

graph
write, writing
graphite, orthography

gyn
woman, female
gynecology, misogynist

hagi
holy
hagiographer, hagiolatry

hem
blood
hemorrhage, hemoglobin

helio
sun
heliotropic, heliacal

hepat
liver
hepatic, hepatitis

hetero
other, different
heterodox, heterogeneous

hier
holy
hierophant, hierarchy

homo
same
homogeneous, homograph

hydr
water

hydrogen, dehydrate, anhydrous

hygr
moisture
hygrometer

iatr
heal, cure
iatric, geriatrics, pediatrics

iso
same, equal
isosceles, isotope, isonomy

lith
rock, stone
monolith, neolithic

log, ology
speech, word, study, reason
epilogue, logarithm, theology

mega
large, enlargement
megaphone, megacephalic

metr, meter
measure
diameter, metronome, trigonometry

miso
hatred
misoneism, misology

mnasthai
memory
mnemonic, memory

mono, mon
one, single
monogamy, monotonous

morph

form
morphology, amorphous

necr
dead, die
necrology, necrotic

neo
new, recent
neologism, neolithic

nephr
kidney
nephritis, nephron

neur
nerve
neuralgia, neurasthenia

nom
law, rule
autonomy, economy, metronome

odont
tooth
orthodontia, peridontics

oen, eno
wine
oenologist, oenomania

onym, nym
name, word
anonymous, pseudonym

ornith
bird
ornithology

orth
straight, correct
orthodox, orthodontist

paleo
old
paleontology, paleolithic

pan
all, entire
panorama, pandemonium

path
feeling, disease, sufferer
psychopath, apathy, pathology

ped, paed
child, boy
orthopedic, pediatrician

phan
appearance
phantom, theophany

phil
like, love
philanthropic, philology

phob
fear
phobia, claustrophobia

phon
sound
phonetics, telephone, euphony

phor
bearing, carrying, having
semaphore, phosphorous

phos, phot
light
phosphorous, photograph

phyll
leaf
phyllopod, chlorophyll

plasi
formation
neoplasm, homoplasia

plegia
to strike, paralysis
paraplegia, hemiplegia

pneum
air, wine, lung
pneumatic, pneumonia

pod
foot
tripod, podiatrics, podium

polis
city, people
metropolitan, political

poly
many
polygon, polygamy

pseudo
false
pseudopod, pseudopigrapha

psych
mind
psychiatry, psychology

pyr
fire
pyrex, pyre, pyrotechnic

rhin
nose
rhinoceros, rhinoplasty

rrhage, rrhea
flow

hemorrhage, logorrhea

scop

watch, look at

microscope, telescope

seism

earthquake

seismograph

som

body

psychosomatic, soma

soph

wise, wisdom

sophomore, philosopher

taut

same

tautology, tautomerism

tax, tact

arrange, arrangement

taxidermy, tactics

techn

art, craft, technique

polytechnical, technician

tele

far, distant

telegram, telepathy

theo

god

thearchy, theology

therm

heat

thermal, thermometer

tom

cut, split
atom, appendectomy

trop
turn
phototropic, tropic

troph
nutrition, growth
atrophy, polytrophic

typ
model, print
type, prototype

thanatos
death
thanatopsis, thanataphobia

thaum
miracle
thaumaturge, thaumatrope

LATIN ROOTS

ROOT
MEANING
EXAMPLES

ac, acr
sour, sharp
acute, acrid, acumen, acrimonious

aero
air

aerodynamics, aerodyne, aerosol

ag, act

do, drive, move, impel

agile, agent, act, agenda, reaction

agr

field

agriculture, agrarian, agronomy

alb

white

albino, albinism, albedo

ali

other

alien, alibi, alias

alt

high

altitude, altimeter, alto

alter

other, change

alter, alternate, alternant

ambul

walk

ambulatory, ambulant

amic, am

love, friend

amity, amatory, amicable

ampli

large

ampliation, ample, amplification

anim

mind, soul, spirit

animate, animosity, magnanimity

ani, enni

year
annals, anniversary, perennial

apt, ept
adjust, fit
adapt, aptitude, inept

api
bee
apiary, apian, apiarist

aqu
water
aquatic, aquarium, aqueduct

arm
arm, weapon
army, disarming, armory, armament

art
skill, craft, art
artisan, artful, artificial

aud, audit
hear
audible, audience, auditorium

aug
increase
augment, augmentative

aur
gold
aureate, aureole, auriferous

avi
bird
aviary, aviatrix, aviculture

bel, bell
war
bellicose, belligerent, rebel

bene, ben
well, good
benefit, benefactor, benediction

brev
short, brief
brevity, abbreviate, abridge

bull
boil
ebullient, ebullition

cand
white, glowing
incandescent, candle, candent

cant
sing
cantation, cantata, cantilate

cap, capt, cept, cip
take
capable, capacity, captious, reception, anticipate

capit
head
capital, decapitate, per capita

carn
meat, flesh
incarnate, carnal, carnivorous

ced, ceed, cess
move, yield, go
recede, proceed, concession

cent
hundred
century, centennial, centipede

cern, cert
perceive, separate, decide
discern, ascertain, certify

cid, dis
cut, kill
incision, homicide, fratricide

cit
summon, impel
excite, citation, incite

civ
citizen, city
civilian, civic, civilize, civility

clam, claim
shout, cry
clamor, proclaim, exclamation

clar
clear
clarify, clarity, clarinet, declare

clin
bend, lean
decline, declension, inclination

clud, clus, clau, clos
shut, close
conclude, closet, occlude, exclusion, claustrophobia

cogn
know, be acquainted
incognito, recognize, cognizant

commun
common
community, communion, communication

copi, op
abundance, wealth
copious, opulent

cord
heart

cordial, discord, accord, concord

corn

horn, point

cornucopia, cornea, corniculate

corp

body

corpuscle, corporation, corpulent

cred

belief, trust

credible, credulous, credit

cresc, cret

rise, grow

crescent, concrete, accretion

cruc

cross

crucifixion, crucifer, cruciform

culp

fault, blame

culpable, culprit, exculpate

cupr

copper

cupreous, cuprous, cupric

cur

care, care for

accurate, security, curator

cur, curr, curs

run, cours

curriculum, concur, recurrent

dec

ten

decimal, decimate, decennial

dent

tooth
dentist, denture, indent

dict
say, speak, word
diction, contradict, abdicate

digit
finger
digitate, digitigrade, digital

dign
worth, worthy
dignify, indignity, condign

doc, doct
teach, prove
docile, doctrine, indoctrinate

domin
master
dominate, domain, predominant

dorm
sleep
dormant, dormitory, dormer

du
two
duel, duet, duplicate

duc, duct
lead
adduce, seduce, abduct, education

dur
hard, lasting
durable, objure, duration

ego
I, self
egotist, egoist, egocentric

equi, equ
equal
equality, equity, equinox

err
wander
errata, erratic, aberration

ev
time, age
medieval, longevity, primeval

fabul
story
fable, fabulous, fabliau

fac, fact, fec, fic
do, make, put
facile, facsimile, calefacient, defect, efficacious, factotem

fer
bear, yield, carry
confer, defer, offer, fertile

ferv
boil, bubble
fervor, perfervid, effervescent

fid
belief, faith
fidelity, perfidious, infidel

fin
end, limit
final, infinite, definitive

firm
strong, steadfast
confirm, firmament, infirmary, affirm

flor
flower
floral, florid, florescence, flourish

flex, flex
bend, twist
flexible, circumflex, genuflect

flu, fluct
flow
influence, flux, superfluous

foli
leaf
foliate, foliage, foliaceous

form
form, shape
conform, uniform, reformation

fort
strong
fortify, fortitude, effort, force

frag, fract
break
fragile, fragment, fraction, refract

frat
brother
fraternity, fraternize, fratricide

fund, fus
pour, melt
transfuse, suffuse, refund, foundry

gest, ger
carry, produce
gestation, gesture, ingest, gerund

grad, gress
take steps, step, go, walk
digress, gradient, aggression, egress, degrade, ingredient

grat
please, favor, thankful

gratitude, gratuity, congratulate

grav

weigh, heavy

gravity, gravitation, aggravate

grex, greg

flock, herd

congregate, gregarious, egregious

her, hes

cling, stick

adhere, coherence, adhesion

herb

grass

herbivorous, herbalist, herbicide

horr

shudder at

horrendous, horror, abhorrent

hum

be moist

humidify, humidity, humidior

ig

fire

igneous, ignite, ignescent

irid, irido

rainbow, iris of eye

iridescence, iridic, iridectomy

it

go, travel

exit, transit, circuit, itinerarv

jac, ject

throw, hurl, cast

ejaculate, eject, rejection

jud

judge
judicious, adjudicate, prejudice

junct
join
juncture, disjunctive, adjunct

jur
swear
conjure, abjure, perjury

labor
work
laboratory, elaborate, laborious

lact
milk
lactescent, lactiferous, lacteal

langu
feel weak
languor, languish, languid

latus
wide, side
latitudinarian, equilateral, latitude

laud
praise
laudable, applaud, laudation

leg
law
legislate, illegal, illegitimate

leg, lig, lect
gather, choose, read
legible, eligible, lectern, college

lev, leger
light, rise
levitation, elevate, levity

lingu
tongue, language
linguist, lingulate, bilingual

liter
letter
literal, alliterate, illiterate

loc
place
locus, locale, allocate, location

locu, loqu
talk, speech
colloquial, obloquy, location

luc
light
translucent, lucid, elucidate

luna
moon
lunar, paralun, lunate, lunatic

magn
great, large
magnitude, magnanimous, magnate

mal
bad
malady, malevolent, malediction

man, manu
hand
manacle, manicure, manual

mar
sea
marine, maritime, submarine

mater, matr
mother
maternity, matricide, matriarchy

medi
middle
mediocre, mediate, medieval

memor
memory
memorial, remember, memorable

merg, mers
dip, plunge
submerge, emergent, immersion

meso
middle
mesomorph, mesosphere, mesozoic

migr
depart
migratory, immigration, emigrant

min
less, little
minus, minimize, minority

mit, miss
send
admit, omit, missile, emissary

mob, mo, mot, mov
move
mobile, remote, move, motor

mon, monit
warn
admonish, monitor, monish

monstr
show
demonstrate, remonstrate, monstrate

mont
mountain

mount, amount, dismount

mor, mort

die, death

moribund, mortuary, immortal

multi

many

multitude, multiple, multifarious

mur

wall

mural, immure

mut, mutat

change

immutable, transmute, mutation

natur

nature

natural, native, naturopathy

nav

ship, sail

naval, navigate, circumnavigate

neg

deny

negate, renege, negative

nomen, nomin

name

nomenclature, nominee, cognomen

nov

new

novelty, innovate, renovate

nox

harmful

noxious, obnoxious, noxiousness

num

marry
nubial, connubial, nuptials

ocul
eye
ocular, oculist, binocular

offic
duty
office, officious, officer

omni
all
omnipotent, omnivorous, omniscient

onus
load, burden
onus, onerous

ora
speak, pray
orate, oratorio, oracular

ord
order
disorder, ordinance, ordinary, ordain

orn
decorate
ornate, adorn, ornament

pac, pax
peace
pacify, Pax Romana, pacific

par
equal
par, disparity, disparate, separate

par
make ready, shield
prepare, repair, pare

pater, patr
father
paternal, patrimony, patristic

pecuni
money
percuniary, impecunious

ped
foot
pedal, centipede, quadruped

pel, puls
drive, urge
repel, compulsion, impulse

pend, pens
hand, weigh, pay
expensive, pension, suspend, pendant

pet
seek, ask, strive for
competitor, petulant, petition

petr
rock
petrified, petrography, petroglyph

pisci
fish
Pisces, piscary, pisciculture

plan
level
plane, explain, explanation

plen
full
plenty, plentitude, replenish

plic, pli, ply
fold, bend
duplicity, replica, imply

plumb
lead(metal)
plumbiferous, plumb, plumbeous

pomi
apple, fruit
pomander, pomade, pommel

pon, pos
place, put
postpone, proponent, deposit

port
carry
porter, export, portable, comportment

popul
people
popular, populous, population

pot
power
impotent, omnipotent, potentiality

prehend, prehens
seize
prehensile, apprehend, comprehension

press
press, force
press, pressure, oppress, expression

prim
first
primer, primitive, primeval

prob
good
probation, opprobrium, prove

propr
one's own, fitting

property, probity, proper

quir, quis

ask, seek

inquire, inquisition, requisition

quasi

somewhat, seemingly

quasijudicial, quasi, quasipublic

radi

ray

radiant, radial, irradiate

reg

straighten, rule

regiment, regal, interregnum, regicide

rid, ris

laugh

ridiculous, deride, derision

rog

ask

interrogate, rogation, derogative

rupt

break

rupture, abrupt, interrupt

salv

safe

salvation, salvage, salvo

sanct

holy

sanction, sanctuary, sanctimonious

sang

blood

sanguine, consanguinity, sanguinary

sci

know
science, conscious, prescient

scrib, script
write
inscribe, transcribe, scriptures

sed, sid, sess, sej
sit, seat
sedentary, supersede, sejant, sessile, session, assiduous

seg, sect
cut
segment, sector, dissect

semin
seed
seminal, seminiferous, disseminate

sen
old
senior, senile, senescence, senate

sens, sent
feel
sensory, sensuous, sentimental, sentient

seq, secut, sue
follow
sequel, consequence, ensue, persecute

serv
keep, save, serve
conserve, preserve, service, servant

silv
forest
sylvan, silva, silviculture

simil
like
similar, similitude, assimilate

sist
stand
insist, persistence, desist

sol, soli
alone
solitude, solitaire, desolate

solid
compact
solid, consolidate, solder

solv, solu, solut
loosen, free
solvent, soluble, absolute

somni
sleep
somnia, somniferous, somnific

son
sound
unison, resonance, dissonance

spec, spic, spect
look, see
specimen, despicable, circumspect

spir
breathe
aspire, perspiration, spirit

sta
stand, firm
stable, establish, station, status

string, strict
bind tight
stringent, restrict, stricture

stru, struct
build
structure, construe, destruction

suad, suas
advise
persuade, dissuade, suasion

sud
sweat
sudorific, sudatorium, sudatory

sum, sumpt
take, spend, take
consumption, presume, assume

tang, ting, tig, tact
touch
tangible, tactile, contingent, contiguous, contact

tempor
time
contemporary, temporal, extemporaneous

teg, tect
cover
integument, protect, tegular

ten, tin, tent
hold
tenure, retentive, continence

tend, tens, tent
stretch
distend, tendency, pretense

tenu
thin
tenuous, attenuate, extenuate

terr, ter
land
terrestrial, subterranean, disinter

test
witness

testify, testimony, testament

torp

numb

torpid, torpor, torpedo

tort, tors

twist

distort, contortion, torsion

tract, tra

draw, pull, drag

traction, distract, train

trib

assign

attribute, distribute, contribute

trud, trus

thrust

intrusion, protrude, abstruse

turb

agitate

turbid, turbulence, disturbance

turg

swell

turgid, turgescence, turgor

umbr

shade

umbrella, adumbrate, penumbra

und

wave

undulant, inundate, abundant

uni

one

unity, uniform, unison

urb

city
urbanity, suburban, urbane

vac
empty
vacant, vacuous, evacuate

vad, vas
go
pervade, evasion, pervasive

ven, vent
come, go
intervene, convene, event, prevent

ver
true
verily, veracity, verisimilitude

verb
word
verbal, verbose, verbiage

verm
worm
vermicular, vermiculate

vert, vers
turn
aversion, inadvertent, convent

vest
dress
vesture, divest, vestment

vid, vis
see
visual, evident, supervisor

vinc, vict
conquer
convince, victor, invincible, evict

vit, viv
life, lively
vitality, vitamin, vivid

voc, vok
call
vocation, invoke, advocate

vol
wish
volition, volunteer, malevolent

volv, volu, volut
roll, turn
evolve, devolve, evolution, convolution

vulg
common
vulgar, vulgate, divulge

Old English Origin

PREFIX MEANING EXAMPLES

a
in, on, of, up, to, at
afire, abed, astride, afoot

back
back
backstroke, backward

be
around, about, away, completely
beset, besprinkle, beware

by
near, secondarily, incidental
by-play, by-product, by-stander

for
away, from, off, apart
forswear, forsake, forfend

fore
before, previous
forethought, foreword

mis
badly, poorly, not
misfit, misfire, misbelieve

off
off
offside, offspring, offhand

out
better, greater, going away
outbound, outpatient, outrun

over
over, excessively, above
overthrow, overcast, overrun

un
not, no, a reversal
unfold, unknown, ungodly

under
below
undershirt, undergraduate

with
away, against
withdraw, withstand, withhold

Latin Origin

ab (a, abs)

from, off, away
abdicate, abnormal, averse

ad (ac, af, ag, al, an, ap, ar, as, at)
to, toward, near, very
adverse, advocate, accede, affiliate, aggression, allude, annul, appear,
arrogate, assent

ambi
both
ambidextrous, ambivalent

ante
before, previous
antecedent, antedate, ante

bene
well, good
benison, benefit, beneficiary

bi
two, twice
biennial, bilateral, bisect

circum
around
circumvent, circumspect

com (co, col, con, cor)
with, together, very, jointly
compare, complicate, coexist, collate, concentrate, corrupt

contra (contro, counter)
against, opposing
contradict, contravene, contrast, controversy, counter

de
away, opposed, off, down
demure, demolish, debark

demi
half
demigod, demitasse, demimonde

dis (di, dif)

away, out, apart from, reversal of, opposite of, down

dissent, dispel, digress, divert, diffuse, diffident, discourse, discuss, dislike

ex (e, ec, ef)

away, from, out, without, missing, former

excise, eccentric, expel, eject, efface, ex-wife

extra (extro, exo)

outside, beyond

extramural, extrovert, exoskeleton, extravagant

in (ig, il, im, ir)

not, opposing

incapable, insoluble, illicit, improvident, irrational, ignoble

in (il, im, ir)

in, into, within

induct, irrigate, immigrate

inter

among, between

intercede, intermittent

intro, intra

inwardly, to the inside, within

introvert, introduce, intravenous, intrastate

mal

bad, evil, wrong, ill

malady, malignant, malcontent

multi

many

multimillionaire, multiply

non

not

nonentity, nonessential

ob (oc, of, op)

over, against, toward, very, upon

obtrude, obstruct, occlude, offend, oppose, obloquy

per

through, thoroughly, completely

permeate, perspicuous, pernicious, percolate

post

after, later, behind, following

postlude, postpone, postscript

pre

before, earlier, in front of

preclude, prevent, predicate, precursor

pro

earlier, before, in front of, in place of, favoring, forward

protract, proponent, pronoun, profuse, proceed, pro-Anglo

re

back, backward, again

revoke, recede, recur, repeat

retro

back, backward

retrospect, retroactive

se

away, aside, away from

secede, seduce, seclude

semi

half, partly

semiannual, semicircular

sub (suc, suf, sub, sum, sup, sus)

under, beneath, lower, less

subjugate, subsist, succinct, suffuse, suggest, supplant, sustain, subsidy, subtle

super, sur

over, above, extra, to a degree greater than normal

superscript, supersede, supervise, surtax, surname

trans, tra

across, beyond, through
transfuse, transient, traduce

ultra
beyond, excessive
ultramodern, ultraviolet

uni
one
unicellular, unicorn, unite

Greek Origin

a, an
lacking, without, not
amorphous, anemic, amoral, anarchy, aphasia

amphi
both
amphitheater, amphibiotic

ana
up, against, back
anagram, analysis, anachronism

anti
against, opposing, opposite
antipathy, antitoxin, antithesis

apo
from, off, separate
apostate, apology, apostle

cata, cath
down, away, thoroughly
catalyst, catastrophe

dia
through, across, apart
diameter, diaphanous, diagnose

dys
ill, bad, difficult

dysentery, dysphasia

exto, ect

outside, external

ectoderm, ectomorph, ectogenic

en, em

in, within, among

endemic, empiric, empathy

endo, end

within, inside

endobiotic, endoderm, endoblast

epi

on, over, outside, outer

epigram, epidermis, epitome

eu

good, pleasant, true, well

eugenics, eulogy, euphemism

hemi

half

hemisphere, hemiplegis

hetero

different

heterogeneous, heterolite

hyper

above, excessive, over

hyperbole, hypercritical

hypo

under, down, lower, less

hypodermic, hypothesis

iso

equal, alike

isomagnetic, isonomy, isosceles

macro

large, long
macrocosm, macroeconomics

mega
great, million
megacycle, megalith, megascopic

mes, meso
middle, intermediate
mesomorph, mesosphere

meta, met
later, with a change in
metabolism, metamorphosis

micro
small
microscope, micron, microsown

mono
one
monoplane, monopoly

ne, neo
new
neogenesis, neology, neophyte

olig
few
oligarchy, oligopoly

para
beside, beyond, related
parallel, paradox, paraphrase

peri
around, near, enclosing
perimeter, periscope

poly
many
polygon, polytechnic

pro

earlier, before, in front of, forward

progress, prophesy, prognosis, program

proto

first

prototype, protopathic

pseudo

false

pseudonym, pseudo, pseudopod

syn (sym, syl, sys)

with, together, at same time

synchronize, synthesis, sympathy, system, syllogism

tele

far

telepathy, telephone, telegony